

## Family Scorpaenidae (scorpionfishes)

Scorpionfishes are found in the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans. The majority of scorpionfishes reside in marine waters although some can be found in fresh and brackish waters. Scorpionfishes typically exhibit a compressed body with a single notched dorsal fin and well developed pectoral fins. The head usually contains numerous spines and ridges. A large number of the scorpionfishes are venomous, having venom glands located in the dorsal, anal, and pelvic spines. Some scorpionfishes have internal fertilization and are live-bearers. Scorpaenidae is one of the largest families of fishes, comprising well over 150 species.